

February 1953

Volume 32

Number 370

LABOUR ORGANISER

★ CONTENTS ★

Building an Election Machine

Budgetary Control

Selecting a Candidate

Vignette of a Visionary

Illustrating Meeting Notices

PRICE FIVEPENCE

Situations Vacant

WANDSWORTH, STREATHAM C.L.P. Applications are invited for the post of Secretary-Agent. Salary and conditions in accordance with the National Agreement. Application forms can be obtained from Mr. P. J. Hendrie, 7 Amesbury Avenue, London, S.W.2, to whom they should be returned not later than 1st March, 1953.

BEDFORD C.L.P. Applications are invited for the post of full-time Secretary-Agent, the appointment to be made in accordance with the National Agreement. Application forms can be obtained from the Honorary Secretary, Bedford Constituency Labour Party, 34 Alexandra Road, Bedford, to whom they must be returned by February 15th, 1953.

SOUTH NORTHANTS C.L.P. Applications are invited for the post of Secretary-Agent. Salary and conditions in accordance with the National Agreement. Application forms can be obtained from Mr. F. Taylor, 70 Wellingborough Road, Northampton, to whom they should be returned not later than 28th February, 1953.

NELSON AND COLNE C.L.P. Applications are invited for the position of Secretary/Agent for the above constituency. Salary and conditions in accordance with the National Agreement. Application forms from Councillor J. Shepherd, J.P., "Heathbank", Barkerhouse Road, Nelson, Lancs, to whom they must be returned by 21st February.

Every Employee a Trade Unionist

**THAT'S ANOTHER REASON
WHY TRADE UNIONISTS
SHOULD SHOP
AT THE
LONDON CO-OP**

MONEY—CASH BRASS—TIN

Call it what you like
IT'S ALL

FUNDS!!!

Send for our free fund-raising
samples, only 3d. postage, to:—

THE IDEAL PRINTERS
12, Midland Street, HULL

**THE "FUND-RAISING"
SPECIALISTS**

FULL UNION SHOP SINCE 1922
EST: 1919

*What
does the
morning
paper
say?*



Is it steadily on your side
as a trade unionist and a
voting citizen? Or does
it flirt with or promote
policies which endanger
your hard-won standards
of life?

You can rely on Labour's
go-ahead newspaper, the

DAILY HERALD

For the family, too

THE LABOUR ORGANISER

PUBLISHED BY THE LABOUR PARTY, TRANSPORT HOUSE, SMITH SQUARE, LONDON, S.W.1

VOL. 32. NO. 370.

FEBRUARY, 1953

PRICE FIVEPENCE

Another Victory in May

LOCAL Labour Parties will look upon the Local Government elections to be held next May as an opportunity for repeating the great victories of 1952. This year there are no County Council elections, but there will be elections in the 28 Metropolitan Boroughs for the first time since 1949.

There is no doubt that the Tories took their defeat very much to heart, and it is certain that they will do all they can to retrieve their position this year. Labour gains last year were not due to a swing of the political pendulum. They were because Labour organisers brought out to vote a fairly high proportion of Labour supporters, while the Tories were not able to produce an equally good response on the part of their supporters.

It is possible that, because of their success in the General Election of a few months previously, the Tories were overconfident and did not run their machine at the usual intensity. Certainly, in the local by-elections which followed they put up a much tougher fight and polled much better.

Seats will be won or lost next May in accordance with the ability of the political parties to persuade their supporters to vote for their candidates. Converts will not win seats, but supporters can.

Though last year Labour polled a higher proportion of its Parliamentary vote than its opponents did theirs, a large number who voted for the Labour candidates in the General Election did not bother to vote for Labour Council candidates.

This time the wise election agent will concentrate on known supporters, that is if the Labour supporters are known. It is amazing how frequently records compiled as a result of careful canvassing in elections, and between, are lost as a result of a failure to appreciate their vital necessity in future elections. One of the jobs that can be tackled immediately is the recovery of canvass records from the wards and polling districts in readiness for the preparation of material for this year's campaign, which will start to get under way with the publication of the new register this year on the 16th March.

VIGNETTE OF A VISIONARY

MENIAL and repetition work is not necessarily so soul-destroying as many of those who never do any suppose. It furnishes an opportunity for reflection, reminiscence and reverie, that occurs none too frequently in a harried and harassed political life. Some of the most eloquent speeches I have not delivered have composed themselves whilst I was shining the household's shoes. The invigorating dolly-tub similarly inspires a lady of my acquaintance who has a creditable record in public life.

I spent this morning making marmalade, and confess that no new gems of rhetoric were produced; but it was in the course of cutting several pounds of the rind of Seville oranges into fine slivers with a razor-keen knife without adding my finger-ends to them—no small achievement in itself—that I recalled to memory my old friend Dick. Never mind about his surname; he may have relatives still living ready to disown him.

Lean Character

Dick was a lean character in the late twenties with a nose like a herring, emaciated cheeks, and a mop of fair hair. He was an Anarchist-Communist, convinced that the day was near at hand when the oppressed masses would rise in their might and majesty, destroy all governments, and inaugurate the era of perfect freedom and absolute virtue in which no policemen would be needed even for point duty. So eager was he for the Revolution that he walked always at six miles an hour to meet it; and I still think ruefully of the muscular and intellectual stress of walking many times with him the three miles to the village where we lived while he fiercely declaimed accurately memorised whole chapters of Hegel, Engels, Kröpotkin, Malatesta, and others of his

mentors; his pockets bulged with pamphlets and books, his eye in fine frenzy rolling, and his arms threshing the unoffending air of the mellowest and most gracious suburb in Britain. Never in his life did Dick speak evil of any man; all his being was dedicated to his Anarchist-Communist Utopia.

He spent most of his evenings and all week-ends addressing open-air meetings, wherever he could get a few to gather around a soap-box. He had a light-coloured voice, and in reply to a raucous interrupter who demanded, "Wot DO yo bloody Socialists want then?", he squeaked, 'My friend; we want the earth.'

Poor Shrimp

When the Kaiser's war came, Dick got himself thrown out of every Recruiting Office in the neighbourhood, being a poor shrimp of a fellow physically, because he was determined to fight to make the world safe for a kind of democracy which he held in philosophical disdain, but at last he swindled his way into the British Army and was killed in France in 1915.



AND that was the end of Dick, as it was of millions of other chaps during that war. A strange light had gone out, a tiny astral phenomenon had vanished. He was not a politician. He was a member of no party. The inner light of his ecstasy which was burning up his frail body compelled him to preach his gospel to the little crowds of tatterdemalions that sometimes gathered around his unpretentious pulpit, in a language that was utterly incomprehensible to them. Did he have any influence whatsoever upon them? Do any of them remember him and his passionate impracticable idealism? Was he simply one of the ephemera, just a moth "shrivelled in a fruitless fire"? I don't know. But after reading Reg Underhill's review of the By-Election I do not think it would be altogether a bad thing if Dick came back to bite some of the electors of Small Heath.

ILLUSTRATE MEETING NOTICES

Says E. RANDLE

IN my capacity as Agent, over the years, I must have sent many, many thousands of notices, reports, agendas, etc., to the members of our parties.

In these days of typewriters, duplicating and addressograph machines everyone expects a notice, and the up-to-date circular has taken the place of the usual printed postcard, which only required the filling in of the date, time and place of the meeting. But how many of our members bother to read them?

I attended a Ward meeting at which only a handful of members were present and the secretary was bemoaning the fact that 'over 250 notices have been sent out and these are all who have turned up. What else can one do?'

This is not a new story. 'It pays to advertise' says the slogan, and I for one believe in that slogan, for in this age of high-speed commercialism and propaganda even the planning and wording of a notice has to be considered carefully.

So why not make your notices *worth* reading? Illustrate them—one need not be a first-rate artist to do it either—and if you're like me, it will not take more than a few minutes anyway.

Drawing is a method of expression, older by far and more natural than writing. Give an illustration and the meaning quickly follows. Ever wondered why a cartoonist is so popular?

A few quick, deft touches of the pen and sometimes not even a caption is needed to explain things, a smile is raised without a word, or a point is home without any explanation whatsoever. Even if, on occasion, the recipient of the notice sees the picture or drawing and cannot find the connection, he or she will jolly well read the contents, and maybe turn up at the

next meeting to tell you what a 'rotten' drawing it was anyway.

I have found this idea really does work, and why not? Take a look at the majority of advertisements in our newspapers, magazines, circulars, etc. They're all illustrated, and very often not with anything related to the article or commodity offered. So why not give it a trial on your next notices?

Recently I did an eight-page brochure containing the nominations for the next borough council elections and drew the outline of the local Town Hall on the front, with a ballot-box superimposed on the top of the Hall, with a hand placing the ballot paper in the slot. Another notice contained a figure of a woman carrying a tray of 'eats' to a party of children sitting at a table: this was a Ward notice calling attention to a forthcoming children's party. Yet another notice, of a forthcoming lecture on Kenya, I illustrated with a film camera showing the title of the lecture on the screen, on which I had drawn a little black boy.

Well, so much for that, how does one do it? I said it was simple and so it is. Any stencil of any make, a stylo pen, your own imagination, or a transfer or tracing copy are all that are needed. Place the tracing copy under the stencil and trace in the normal way. If the idea is your own, get the steel pen and very lightly go over the blank spaces in your stencil and draw anything which has a bearing on the contents of your notice.

Watch out for ideas in a comic, an advertisement, or a magazine which could easily be adapted. When typing leave sufficient space on the stencil for the drawing, whether large or small, or make the wording fit round the drawing.

We have to find a way to get our members to read the notices which are sent out. I believe this to be one of the ways to do it—what do you think?

MORTONS FOR STATIONERY

Write for samples and new List of ENVELOPES, DUPLICATING PAPERS, STENCILS, INKS, TYPEWRITER RIBBONS and CARBONS etc, as supplied to scores of Labour Party and Trade Union Offices. Mortons, 37 Wheatsheaf Hall, Wheatsheaf Lane, London, S.W.8



Building an Election Machine

by

SARA BARKER, Assistant National Agent

THE Annual Conference of the Labour Party, held at Nottingham in January, 1918, debated a vital amendment to the constitution. A month later, at an adjourned conference, that amendment was adopted.

For the first time in the history of the Labour Party provision was made for individual membership. It was a revolutionary change to meet a revolutionary situation. Previously the Labour Party constitution provided for the affiliation of Trade Unions, Trades Councils, Socialist Societies and Local Labour Parties, together with Co-operative Societies and a national organisation of women, accepting the constitution and policy of the Party.

In those days, a constituency party was called a Local Labour Party and was entitled to affiliate to the Labour Party, provided there was no affiliated Trades Council in the constituency, or if there was such a council, that it had been consulted.

In fact, at national and local levels, the Labour Party was an organisation composed of organisations. To-day, thanks to that change in 1918, it is an organisation of organisations and of individual members.

In a masterly speech, the late Arthur Henderson, who was then Secretary of the Labour Party, submitted a recommendation to introduce individual membership.

He pointed out that the world conflict which had just ended had created problems of a social and economic character which demanded drastic remedies. The programme, issued under the title of 'Labour and the New Social Order', met the challenge of the times. Evidence abounded that the new programme would win considerable support.

Wisely, Arthur Henderson went on to focus the attention of the conference on the importance of placing behind the new programme 'the greatest and most highly organised political Labour and Socialist force that had ever been organised in the history of the country'.

He pointed out that while the old organisation had been adequate for the purpose of selecting candidates and initiating campaigns, it was woefully

lacking when it came to manning a political machine adequate to meet the demands of the electoral system.

The members of affiliated organisations were too remote from the Local Labour Parties, as they were constituted, to become enthusiastic about the detailed work which was so essential if we were to win power. With clarity and conviction Arthur Henderson saw that individual membership, however desirable, was in itself insufficient to build an all-powerful political machine.

The amended constitution, therefore, made provision for retaining the strength and valuable experience of the affiliated organisations, at the same time as it added the power of individual membership, which was to become the driving force in constituency party work, and was to forge a link between the Party and the individual elector.

An important General Election was pending. The last register, compiled in 1914, contained approximately eight million electors. The first register under the 1918 Representation of the People Act contained approximately sixteen million electors, and this figure included millions of women, who would vote for the first time.

Up to 1918 the highest number of Labour candidates contesting seats at general elections had been 78; representation on local authorities had been meagre in the extreme.

In order to win power in Parliament and in the Council Chambers the Labour Party needed to build constituency organisation, which would not only centralise effort and responsibility in representative General Management and Executive Committees, but also would diffuse its power through the activities of Local Labour Parties and Wards and Polling District Committees.

The model rules, governing the work of all types of Constituency Labour Parties, are designed to mould our political forces to the requirements of the smallest unit of election machinery.

In this way we are able to organise and distribute our manpower to make contact with, and to know intimately, the electorate in a way which would be impossible through centralised organisation.

The architects of the modern Labour Party knew what they were about when they laid down the basis for the model rules. Not only were they designed to secure the maximum electoral contact and smooth working within the parties, but also they were designed to give the maximum amount of responsibility to each individual and affiliated member. The rules, which are so often criticised and ridiculed, afford equal rights to all and favours to none.

In the December issue of the *Labour Organiser*, the National Agent reviewed 'The British General Election of 1951' by D. E. Butler. He drew attention to Butler's claim that the Tory professional machine has outstripped the organisation of the Labour Party, and commented that our organisation has not improved in recent years at the same rate as the Tories'.

That is true. It is also true that practically all they know about the details of organisation on a constituency basis they have learned from our example in the past. In the old days, when we were but a propaganda force, they did not fear us. When we put the power of the machine behind our propaganda they began to take stock of our methods.

It is true that policy and leadership count in the battle for political power. They counted in 1918, when Arthur Henderson pleaded with the Labour Party to face up to the fact that organisation was the third requisite.

Between now and the next General Election much can be done to gear up the machinery of the Party to the pitch required for victory. Many of the key workers who read the *Labour Organiser* know the requirements of their own constituencies. Unfortunately, to many organisation is a dismal subject. The constitution and model rules appear to be so much red tape limiting activity and strangling individual liberty.

The fact is that the constitution and model rules form a solid foundation for our democratic structure. A constituency built upon the foundations they provide is bound to gain strength and influence.

The craftsman finds a great joy in the precision of his tools, without which he cannot fulfil his task. The political machine is the instrument through which the politician finds expression, and wins power for his cause. Therefore, the strengthening of organisation should be the primary concern of every Constituency Labour Party.

Citadel Breached

LABOUR has at last won a seat on Bewdley Borough Council, and although that may seem a small thing, the measure of the achievement can only be appreciated by those who know the town, and something of its past history.

Until 1950 the burgesses of the Borough had not had the opportunity of voting Labour, since the division, to which Bewdley gave its name, had never had a Labour candidate. The division, steeped in the Baldwin tradition, was regarded as a safe seat for any Tory with the right connections.

In 1950, a revitalised Local Party resolved to fight the municipal elections, and last November success was achieved.

Our two greatest difficulties were an antagonism against the entry of politics into local elections, and an alphabetic register. The first of these we overcame by playing down the political aspects, and emphasising personality; not that there was any doubt in the minds of the electors as to where our candidate stood, but we were not aggressive, but rather conciliatory.

The alphabetic register was more of a problem, because there was no way round it. We adopted the promise card system, using the cards as canvass cards, and arranging them in postman's walking order. The cards were maintained in the same order for the day of the election, being serially numbered, and cross-referenced to the register.

This enabled the committee-room to extract the cards for the knockers-up for the part of the ward being worked. To have done this had the cards been filed in register order would have been most tedious, and extremely slow.

The extent of our canvass, and the efficiency of our knockers-up resulted in a poll of 68 per cent, in November and on an out-of-date register, which is not so bad.

It is hoped next May to repeat our performance, and increase our representation on the Council, but whether we are successful or not will not in any way deflect us from our target, which is the control of the Council by Labour.

L. E. FRANKLIN.

ELECTING THE LEADERSHIP

JOHN TAYLOR, M.P.

concludes his survey of the Parliamentary Labour Party by describing how the Parliamentary Committee is elected.

THE term 'Shadow Cabinet' is journalese and is misleading. The election of a Member to the Parliamentary Committee is no guarantee that he will become a Cabinet Minister when the Party returns to power. It is nothing more than an indication that a sufficient number of his colleagues have decided that he will be a useful member of the Party's main steering committee.

Indeed, it can (and does) happen that a Member who is recognised as a parliamentarian of special ability may not be elected because many of his colleagues believe that his gifts are of more service to the Party if he enjoys the comparative freedom of the back benches, than if he were confined by the restrictions applying to the front bench.

It is not often appreciated that, although a front-bencher has certain priorities at times, he is rather severely restricted in debate. As a rule, he can speak only in the debates for which he has been appointed the opening, or closing, speaker for the Party.

Members of the Parliamentary Committee are entitled to sit on the front bench, but this somewhat mixed privilege is shared by ex-Ministers and Privy Councillors. Therefore, the front benches on both sides of the House are the most uncomfortable and overcrowded seats in the Chamber. The number of permitted occupants is legion. The aggregate extent of that part of their anatomies which is entitled to occupy space in the restricted area is enormous.

The Parliamentary Labour Party meets at least once per week when the House is in session. Twice-weekly meetings are becoming the rule rather than the exception. Occasionally, even more frequent meetings are necessary. At the main meeting, usually held on Tuesday mornings, general business is dealt with. The general approach to a coming debate is decided. Comments arising from current

or past debates are made and considered. Parliamentary tactics on specific matters are discussed. Recommendations, and sometimes instructions, from the Chief Whip are received.

A second meeting towards the end of the Parliamentary week reviews the business of the House for the following week. This is usually a brief, business meeting. It receives the recommendations of the Parliamentary Committee as to who should open and wind up debates, and deals speedily and crisply with the technicalities involved.

The Parliamentary Committee is in almost continual session. It can be summoned in a matter of minutes. It is a highly technical, hard-working body. Membership of it is no sinecure.

When the present Committee was elected by the Parliamentary Labour Party at the beginning of the current session, there was much ill-informed comment on the method of election. The three officers were elected first. This is normal procedure. On the recommendation of the chairman the Parliamentary Labour Party decided that the other twelve members should be elected in the following manner: Those who received a clear majority of the votes cast in the first ballot should be declared elected forthwith.

If some vacancies remained, a second ballot should be held.

Nominees who received the highest number of votes in the first ballot, but did not achieve a clear majority, should go to the second ballot to the extent of twice the number of vacancies remaining.

All sorts of sinister motives were discovered by the critics on the adoption of this procedure. The fact is that there was no satisfactory alternative in view of the number of nominees.

Suppose you had been chairman, what would you have done? There were over 70 nominations for 12 places. The 'electorate' was only 295. A few nominees withdrew later, but that was the position at the time of the decision. Had there been a single ballot with the top 12 elected, there would have been many misgivings.

The feeling that the true reflection of the Members' wishes had not been produced would have been widespread, no matter who was elected. With the exhaustive ballot, which is a general practice in the Trade Union movement, and in the selection of candidates, there could be no such complaint.

In the event, the system worked perfectly. True, the second ballot produced no different result from the first one. The same twelve were elected. But all uneasiness about the possible effects of a wide dispersal of votes was dispelled. The more democratic system had been tested and proved. Everyone was satisfied.

From these two articles, it is hoped that the following facts about the Parliamentary Labour Party will now be clear:

1. It is a necessary piece of Party machinery to ensure, as far as is humanly possible, that the 295 Labour M.P.s work as a good, efficient team, giving adequate expression in Parliament to the policy of the Party and effective interpretation of the general socialist case.

2. It is not a policy-making body. It does not formulate general policy. It interprets it and endeavours to implement it.

3. It has a specialised, technical job and does not interfere with the work or responsibilities of the Constituency Labour Parties. It has quite enough to do in the effective conduct of its own affairs. The job of the Constituency Parties is to send Labour Members to Parliament. The job of the Parliamentary Labour Party is to see that the activities of these Members are sensibly collated, and reasonably directed, in the most effective way.

4. It is not a supra-party organisation, imposing its will upon the Party, or upon the Members of Parliament. It is composed entirely of Members of Parliament and no one else. Its decisions are the collective will of these Members of Parliament.

Usually, it works efficiently and well. Sometimes, not so well. Occasionally, it makes mistakes and works badly. It would be almost a miracle if this were not so. Remember that every one of its members is a person of decided views, considerable experience and wide responsibility. Each one has constituency obligations and district loyalties. These do not always coincide with the obligations and loyalties of all their colleagues.

But the average Labour M.P. is a sincere, industrious chap, who works harder than most people realise. His main concerns are that his constituency shall be well served and that his Party should be successful in Parliament. The first is up to him. The second is a collective job. On the whole, his Parliamentary Labour Party carries it through in a manner worthy of his Party.

His Parliamentary Labour Party works all the better when he knows it has the understanding and support of the members of the Party in his own constituency. If these articles have assisted that understanding they have served their sole purpose.

A New Form

THE Home Office has notified Electoral Registration Officers that a new electoral registration form—R.P.F.10A—has been printed and that supplies are available from H.M. Stationery Office. This new form combines R.P.F.7 and R.P.F.10 and thereby simplifies applications for the appointment of a proxy.

Prior to this, those who were unable to vote in person on account of their occupation or employment taking them (a) outside the United Kingdom, or (b) to sea, had first to fill in R.P.F.7, to be treated as an absent voter, then R.P.F.10, to appoint a proxy. By combining the two forms, not only is time and money saved, but also the possibility of one or the other being mislaid or lost is avoided.

Merchant seamen, whose names have been entered in the appropriate column in Form A (the official form used for compiling the Electors Lists) and for whom no proxy has been appointed, will doubtless be receiving the new form from the Electoral Registration Officer as provided for by R.P. Regulations. Party agents and secretaries should, especially in coastal constituencies, obtain a supply of these new forms from the local Electoral Registration Officer, for those engaged in similar occupations.

R.P.F.7 will, of course, still continue in use for applications to be treated as an absent voter where a postal vote is required.

BUDGETARY CONTROL FOR

MUCH has been written in professional journals on the subject of Budgetary Control, but few persons outside the accountancy field realise the important role it plays in commerce and industry to-day.

We are concerned here, however, with the benefits to be derived from the application of the principles of Budgetary Control to the management of local party finances. Efficiency in party financial affairs is just as vital to us as a thriving industrial plant is to the business-man. This efficiency cannot be obtained without a certain amount of 'budgeting', combined with the 'control' of expenditure, when actual results are compared with the agreed budget.

All agents will agree that a local party's effectiveness nowadays, depends to a large extent on its financial resources. It follows, therefore, that the local organisation could be strengthened by making full use of all the information gained from the use of a simple method of Budgetary Control.

No involved system is necessary. Once the principle is understood, the method of its application can be devised to suit local requirements. Too many of our local parties are still attempting to run their financial affairs as they did in the early

days of the movement, with the aid of an exercise book and lots of faith. They must, however, move with the times and, particularly those parties whose annual turnover runs into thousands of pounds, must use methods which have proved successful in the business world.

The system of Budgetary Control in a local party could take the following form. The treasurer should be instructed to prepare an estimated statement of income and expenditure for submission to the finance committee, preferably in advance of the commencement of a new year. The basis of the estimate is naturally the *actual* income and expenditure of the current year, taking into account any unusual changes which might occur.

This Budget need not be for a full year. In fact, it may prove to be more helpful to split the year into two periods of six months each, and prepare a half-yearly budget towards the end of the first half. In this way (see 'A') a more realistic forecast can be obtained, as full use can be made of the experience gained in the first half-year to right certain obviously bad trends, which are thrown up by the results of those six months.

Where a local party has the advantage of owning, or renting, premises of their own, a more detailed study of working costs is necessary before a realistic Budget

A

ESTIMATES FOR SIX MONTHS FROM 1st JANUARY, 1953 GENERAL ACCOUNT

EXPENDITURE	Total	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May	June
Wages, Superannuation, N.I.	300	50	50	50	50	50	50
Collection Expenses	58	16	9	7	14	6	6
Travelling Expenses	20	3	3	4	3	3	4
Labour Party Affiliation Fees	60	10	10	10	10	10	10
Delegates' Fees	5	—	—	3	—	2	—
Postage	24	4	4	4	4	4	4
Telephones	24	4	4	4	4	4	4
Printing and Stationery	60	10	10	10	10	10	10
Surplus to Election Fund	100	—	—	—	—	—	100
Surplus to Premises Fund	139	—	—	—	—	—	139
	790	97	90	92	95	89	327
INCOME							
Members' Subscriptions	290	80	45	35	70	30	30
Donations	175	37	—	—	38	50	50
Affiliation Fees	25	6	6	5	3	3	2
Literature Sales (net)	10	2	2	2	2	1	1
Special Efforts (net)	290	15	15	15	15	215	15
	£790	£140	£68	£57	£128	£299	£98

L PARTIES

West Fulham's Treasurer describes
how to control local finances

B FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THREE MONTHS ENDING 31st MARCH, 1953 GENERAL ACCOUNT

	One Month ending 31st March			Three Months to date		
	Esti- mate	Actual	Last Year	Esti- mate	Actual	Last Year
EXPENDITURE						
Wages, Superannuation, N.I.	50	52	50	150	156	148
Collection Expenses	7	8	6	32	36	28
Travelling Expenses	4	3	3	10	9	12
Labour Party Affiliation Fees	10	10	8	30	30	24
Delegates' Fees	3	2	3	3	3	3
Postage	4	5	5	12	16	14
Telephones	4	4	4	12	12	12
Printing and Stationery	10	9	12	30	32	34
	£92	£93	£91	£279	£294	£275
INCOME						
Members' Subscriptions	35	40	30	160	180	140
Affiliation Fees	5	6	5	17	18	15
Donations	—	2	3	37	37	37
Literature Sales (net)	2	3	2	6	8	10
Special Efforts (net)	15	16	14	45	48	44
Excess Expenditure over Income	35	26	37	14	3	29
	£92	£93	£91	£279	£294	£275

can be presented to the finance committee for adjustment and amendment.

The officers of the party responsible for certain spheres of activity must, of course, be consulted by the treasurer so that he may obtain all the information relating to their needs during the coming half-year. The secretary, education officer, premises committee, social secretary, literature officer and any other officials should be asked for a provisional figure to cover the carrying out of any schemes they may have in mind.

It is always understood that acceptance of these figures does not endorse these schemes!

Figures of membership, with prospective increases as a result of membership campaigns, should be obtained from the secretary, and the income from subscriptions from this source calculated.

The finance committee would then examine these proposals and suggest modifications, or improvements. They would prepare plans to bridge any gap between expenditure and income by means of special efforts, such as membership draws and competitions. Once an agreed Budget has been endorsed by the committee it can be presented to the full General Committee.

Budgetary Control does not mean mere forecasting, however. It is useless to arrive at the end of a year, compare the actual results with the original estimate and say, either, 'We've made it', or what is 'more likely', 'something went wrong with our guesswork'.

Action should be initiated as a result of periodic examination of figures, and it is here that the actual form of presentation of monthly or quarterly financial statements is most important.

It is always wise to avoid making definite recommendations on the detail to be employed in these cases, as local circumstances produce different ideas. 'B' shows one way of dealing with this problem.

In the larger parties, it may be necessary to consider expenditure on capital items separately from ordinary day-to-day expenditure, as in most cases funds are made available for these items only if sufficient spare cash is on hand. It will also be necessary to plan for known elections, either local or national, and, of course, always bear in mind the fact that an emergency election is always possible.

W. G. PARISH

CHANGE RURAL ELECTIONS CALL

by

LEN SIMS, National Agent's Department

A RECENT issue of the 'Rural District Review' reported the proceedings of the Council of the Rural District Councils' Association, at which a number of interesting electoral matters were discussed.

A letter, from the Somerset Branch of the Association, asked the Executive Council to make representations for an amendment in the legislation so that a return of election expenses shall not be required from Rural District and Parish Council election candidates when no poll is held. In practice, the Branch state, no expenses are ever incurred by local candidates if there is no poll. It is, therefore, a complete waste of time and trouble to have these nil declarations made.

Revision necessary

Another point made by the Branch was that consideration should be given to the form of Section 73 of the Representation of the People Act, 1949, because it would seem that one of the penalties imposed on an unsuccessful candidate who does not make his declaration is that he shall not sit or vote as a member of the Council to which he was elected!

The Northampton Branch requested the Executive Council to look into the possibility of simultaneous elections being held for Rural and Parish Councils where the Rural District Council retire in thirds. This, they pointed out, would reduce expenditure, especially for Parish Councils, and more evenly distribute the work of the Returning Officer. At present Parish Council elections are held every third year—the same year as the county council elections.

Election time-table

They also put forward the view that there should be a revision of the election time-table, so as to give Returning Officers more time for the publication of the Notice of Poll. At present, this must be published not later than the fifth day before Day of Election, so presumably, they want either a shorter period for nomi-

nation or a longer overall period for the election.

Postal voting in Rural elections was discussed at the Annual Conference of the Association, at Scarborough, and the following resolution was sent to the Home Office:

That this Conference of Rural District Councils of England and Wales deplores the absence of postal voting facilities in elections of Rural District Councillors, and urges the Home Secretary to introduce legislation to amend the Representation of the People Act, 1949, in this respect.

The representations of the Council in respect of the points put forward by the Somerset and Northampton branches were unsuccessful, but it was stated that the points would be borne in mind when any future amending legislation is being considered. The Conference resolution was noted.

NEW AGENTS

The following Agency appointments have been approved by the National Executive Committee:

F. O. RILSTONE — West Dorset has appointed as its first agent, a newcomer to the Agency Service. Francis Rilstone, a bank clerk, aged 25, hails from Truro and has been Secretary of the Cornwall Federation of Labour Parties since 1950.

G. W. WHITWORTH — Ilford North has selected George Whitworth to fill the agency vacancy. For the past three years he has been Secretary/Agent to the Saffron Walden Party. He takes up his new appointment on the 1st March.

J. BENTON — Taunton has appointed John Benton, who has been a Trainee Agent with the Coventry Party for a year. Aged 24, he was previously a Local Government Officer with the Staffordshire County Council.

HOW TO WHIP UP THOSE LAGGARDS

YOUR January leading article would have been wiser had it dealt more with Simon Fraser's plea for action and less with the ups and downs of the Tory Party. What consolation is it to us that the Tories are supposed to have lost half a million members when twice that number can still be recruited into our own Party?

Why waste time and space arguing round figures made up of club darts teams, billiards teams and just plain boozers, whose affiliation to that Party is no stronger than the mild and bitter they can no longer afford to sup? I will hazard the guess that it is among that fraternity that the Tories have lost members, and I am not so sure that a similar purge would not be a good thing for our Party.

However, more interesting to me is Simon Fraser's suggestion that a national membership officer should be appointed.

How is it possible for your leader writer to be "doubtful if such an appointment really can be justified" whilst conceding the point that such an officer "could do much to stimulate the laggards"? Surely, if only a few of the backward parties were prodded into bringing in new members the appointment would be justified.

I have no doubts that the efforts at national and regional levels will have some result, but it will not be enough. Cajole and bully as much as you like from Transport House, but you are too remote from the seat of the problem. The laggards must be taken by the hand—or is it the ear?—and shown what to do on the spot.

As for the example of such parties as Lanark being the best weapon in dealing with the laggards—it just doesn't work. At least not in my experience. The workers in my Party have maintained a membership of more than 3,000 for some time now, yet the pathetic record of many parties is sufficient to show that such example goes unheeded.

They couldn't care less. They are deaf to exhortation and example alike and it is high time something else was tried if they are to be made aware of their responsibilities to the Party.

I don't ask that every party should have 3,000 members, but I really am incensed by the complete lack of effort that is shown in the handful of members held by so many parties. I am convinced that they could be better inspired to action by a planned campaign directed by a national officer on the spot than through correspondence which may never be read anyway.

If we really do believe in this work we are doing for socialism, for goodness sake let us show some enterprise in strengthening the Party. The other things will follow.

EDWIN PLAISTOW

Agent, Bury and Radcliffe C.L.P.

All things are relative, including the numerical strength of political parties. We are sure that Mr. Plaistow watches the rise and fall of Tory membership in his Constituency very carefully and compares the movement with that revealed by his own membership figures. And that is all our last month's leader did, though from a national standpoint.

If the laggard parties are as incorrigible as Mr. Plaistow says then even a National Membership Officer will not cut much ice with them. However, he is right in saying that they must be dealt with on the spot, and that is precisely the reason why the appointment of a National Membership Officer is no solution. The Regional organising staff, who now number 32, backed by the Regional Council machinery, are on the spot, and are better situated to take the laggards by the hand than is somebody centred in London.

Last year's Membership Campaign produced good results. We have even higher hopes for the 1953 Campaign now being worked out in detail.

EDITOR.

HOW TO SELECT A CANDIDATE

by Rt. Hon. LORD SHEPHERD

Now Labour's Chief Whip in the House of Lords, the Author was National Agent for 17 years, and guided the election machine in the great victory of 1945.

THE main considerations in selecting a Parliamentary Candidate are: firstly, to effectively strengthen the Party at Westminster and, secondly, to win a new constituency or to maintain an old one for the Labour Party.

Delegates to Constituency Labour Parties, with whom the power of selection rests, should allow no other consideration to take precedence over either the first or the second, for remember, there is no such thing as a moral victory in elections—a result is either a victory or a defeat, and never forget that the victory of an unsatisfactory M.P. may easily be the worst kind of defeat.

Delegates should be guided in their choice by three important things, namely: the type of constituency, the makings of a Parliamentarian, and the attributes necessary to ensure a successful candidature. The first may be easily recognised because it will be based upon facts, but both the second and third require political judgment of a high order, and the absence of such a quality may lead to a wrong decision. To prevent the latter, I would suggest that earlier discussions concerning a candidature should be exploratory and should not bind any delegate to any nominee until the final stage is reached.

The type of constituency may be determined by reference to its main interests, e.g., agricultural, mining, industrial, commercial, shipping, residential; or to its political history or traditions; or to the character of the opposition to the Labour Party, Liberal or Tory; or to influence of local leadership in all forms of public activity.

Local leadership indeed is very important, and a candidate ought somehow to measure up to the standard if he is to attract the non-committed voter. Be it always remembered that the number of voters intellectually unconvinced of Labour's case but swayed by leading men and women in any locality is still very large, and decides many contests. Any

candidate chosen must fit the constituency adopting him and must understand the outlook of its electors.

Let us now consider the sort of Parliamentarian that a Constituency Party may desire to choose. Are delegates anxious to select a candidate for leadership; or for Government office; or one possessed of debating power; or a free lance, notoriety hunter; or a good back-bench Member, the salt of the Parliamentary world, and the real power of any Parliamentarian party? Whichever alternative, or combination of alternatives is favoured, no guarantee can be given that an untried Parliamentary candidate will possess any of the qualities required for any category of parliamentarian.

On election to Parliament a man or woman will soon be put to the test, and he or she will either sink or swim under conditions most of which cannot be foreseen. If I may mix my metaphors a bit more, I would say that the number of extinct volcanoes in Parliament exceeds those of brilliance by a very large margin.

If I am right, Constituency Parties, in selecting candidates, should keep on firm ground, and put flights of fancy on one side. A man's Parliamentary future apart from his election is determined in the constituency and, indeed, is not settled by himself alone. A candidate may even be well known as an astute and a successful propagandist, and delegates may even be convinced that the candidate's qualities may be certain of success if transferred to Westminster. Such a conviction, however, may be based on nothing more than an excited expectation, for Westminster likes not 'propagandists', successful or otherwise, if they boast.

This is not to say, however, that some propaganda experience, if it does not obtrude, is not without its uses. The principal matters calling for judgment at a selection conference are the attributes of the person or persons to be chosen.

A nominee may have speaking ability, but does he possess political and industrial

knowledge? He may have education and address, but he may have no personality. He may have experience and drive, but has he a sense of responsibility? Is he the right age, or the appropriate sex for a particular constituency? Are his habits above reproach? Is he likely to prove a team-worker? Will he devote his time and attention to the constituency?

A host of similar questions can be added to the above and no man can possess all the virtues implied in them, but some of the questions are cardinal and the

virtues related to them must be there. The more important are in the order named: honour, habits, knowledge, personality, industry, experience, speaking ability.

My readers should pay attention to the word 'industry'. The quality of industry governs most other qualities. A lazy man can be no good anywhere, but a lazy man in Parliament may become a real danger, either to himself or to his colleagues; or to both. A government's very life may be brought to an end by neglect of duty by its supporters.

NEW WAY WITH NEW MEMBERS

by

JIM FORSTER, North Seaton Colliery

WHERE are our new Members? This question is being asked time and time again in our meetings, and the answer is always the same, we can't compete against theatres, movies and dances. I do not accept this excuse. Our people to-day have still the urge they had before these modern attractions, the urge to take part in political discussions and to right the wrongs.

The problem of increasing and consolidating our membership and of converting the sleeping member into an active worker is demanding a great deal of effort and energy.

The real solution lies in the hands of Local Committees, to make meetings as attractive as possible. I have devised a form of meeting which combines business with pleasure, and helps to swell the party funds.

Guest Nights can be organised wherever a Party has access to a hall, with facilities for making tea, and with a number of small tables available. A hall and twenty tables could be booked and the tables let out for hire, any one member being allowed to hire a table for a small charge. A member booking a table then has the privilege of inviting guests to sit at it. The only stipulation being that the person who hires the table must provide refreshments for his guests. Guests can, however, be asked to help in meeting the

expenses. A host for the evening is appointed who arranges the syllabus, usually this takes the form of discussions, debates or lectures, and sometimes by way of a change, concerts or social evenings.

The whole point of a Guest Night is simply this. The people who attend are personally invited, they are not seated in the usual formal rows, but in groups round a table, with a friend looking after them. This gives a greater feeling of intimacy, and comradeship. It is amazing how freely people will talk and how much more lively the discussions become over a cup of tea. The other advantages of these meetings is they attract both young and old, husbands bring their wives, and vice versa, also they are ideal for the initiation of new members.

Time tables can be arranged to suit the circumstances, but for a discussion evening usually allow fifteen minutes for introductions, half an hour for the speaker followed by half an hour's interval for refreshments, and the last period for discussion.

WANTED!

Labour Party members to join experimental full-time canvassing team. For particulars, including conditions of appointment, write to the National Agent, Labour Party, Transport House, Smith Square, S.W.1.

Wycombe By-election Again

YOUR short leading article on the Wycombe by-election in the December issue of the 'Organiser' ends with the following words: 'There can be nothing wrong with election machines that can bring out 51,400 electors in a scattered county constituency on a wet November day.'

With that we can all agree. But what we must be disturbed about is the fact that, whilst the people are going to the poll, they are voting the wrong way.

Would it not be true to say that there is something lacking in our (Party) educational machine? If we can agree on that,

Candidates Endorsed

THE following were endorsed as Prospective Parliamentary Candidates at the December meeting of the National Executive Committee:

Cheadle ...	Mrs. M. Ferguson
High Peak ...	Mr. Neil McBride
Tavistock ...	Mr. F. W. Harcourt-Munning
Isle of Ely ...	Mr. A. F. Gray
Hereford ...	Mr. William Pigott
Barnet ...	Mr. Sydney Hyam
Isle of Thanet ...	Mr. F. E. Woodbridge
Stretford ...	Mr. J. McCann
Norwich South ...	Dr. Mabel Tylecote
Stafford & Stone ...	Mr. David Rhydderch
Brighton— Pavilion ...	Mr. Leonard Knowles
Bridlington ...	Mr. R. Mason
Huddersfield West ...	Mr. J. F. Drabble

Withdrawal of Candidatures

Basingstoke ...	Mr. A. E. Carr
Stratford ...	Mrs. E. Thomson

then the next question is: 'What do we propose to do about it?'

Yes, I know you will say that Head Office issue this and that publication frequently for sale to constituency and local parties. But the truth must be said, that the majority of parties in the country today are too poor to purchase the literature for free distribution.

May I respectfully suggest that some of the cash now tied up in Head Office funds be used to assist the poorer constituencies in propaganda efforts, or be used to subsidise the sales and distribution of literature on a wide scale in the marginal seats, or both.

Take Wycombe as an example. Might one ask how much literature was distributed to the electors between the elections of 1945 and 1950, and 1950 and 1951?

I asked this question in a large country division, and the answer was 'nil'. How can we hope to win seats if we are making no attempt to educate the electors. Our opponents are not sitting back doing nothing; indeed on the contrary. When can we expect a lead from H.O.?

R. BELBEN,
Agent, Ince C.L.P.

MODEL LETTERS

May I suggest that you publish a set of model letters to be used by Election Agents during Parliamentary and/or Council Elections. In spite of local variations, these letters could be practically standardised, which would save much time and thought at local level and, incidentally, would improve the forcefulness of some correspondence.

The set might include letters: asking for financial help from (a) Unions and (b) Individuals; for the loan of cars, etc., and to canvassers giving advice.

PAUL ALEXANDER,
Secretary, Wakefield C.L.P.

Around the Regions

SOUTH HAS DOOMSDAY SURVEY

*The time has come the Walrus said
To talk of many things
... of cabbages and kings
... and whether pigs have wings.*

THERE'S an unofficial census taking place across Southern England. It concerns cabbages, and cauliflowers; King Edwards, and curly kale. It relates to marketing and grading; to fertilisers and fruits.

Faced with a resolution of instruction, from an annual meeting, to inquire and advise 'on the possibility of setting up in towns within the Region, fruit and vegetable markets . . . The ownership, control and management of such markets to be on the co-operative basis, shared equally by the retailers, consumers, farmers and market gardeners who co-operate in the scheme', Labour's Southern Region Executive Committee called in the experts.

Come with me to an upper room hard by London's river—meet the twelve experts, every one an active member of the Labour Party.

Here are practical farmers and market gardeners—men with green fingers, well-versed in modern scientific methods, meet the lady from Covent Garden; she brings a life-time of experience in Britain's premier fruit and vegetable market. Next to her sits the man who 'buys' for the world's biggest retail Co-operative Society.

Shake hands with a champion of the agricultural workers; his roots are deep in the rich soil of Hampshire. And meet the housewives—not from the Housewives' League—women from working-class homes, with a first-hand knowledge of the tightness of wage-earners' budgets.

Over this representative gathering presides a comrade who, in addition to managing farms, plays a leading part in the business first created by his forebears in a famous London market when Nell Gwynn was selling oranges.

The experts have talked, and still talk, of 'Transport Costs', 'Wholesalers and Retailers "margins"', 'Wasteful Handling', 'Streamlining Distribution'. Did you know that 50 per cent of all produce sold by greengrocers is imported? There have

been debates about the Tomato Board and discussion about apple juice.

The obstacles to nationalised marketing are being considered. Methods of distribution effective in Holland and Scandinavia have been reviewed.

The annual problem of 'the glut' has been examined. Are the surplus plums from England's southern orchards dried for prunes an economic proposition?

Is private enterprise building its cold stores and pack houses in the right places?

And so the Labour Party in the South is engaged on a 'census' on these lines:

- (a) a general survey of the geography and population of the region;
- (b) a list of growers' co-operatives in existence in the growing areas;
- (c) in which growing areas are collecting centres required (bearing in mind that these might be growers' co-operatives)?;
- (d) what wholesale marketing facilities exist in the region and where additional wholesaling facilities are required?

The final report of the experts should be interesting reading.

F. SHEPHERD.

Southern.

Yorks Revels

THE spate of invitations from local Labour Parties to attend their 'First Annual Dinner', or 'Annual Ball', or 'Cabaret' set me thinking.

Apart from the free meal and excellent entertainment which often I am able to enjoy when other engagements permit, they have posed the question of 'Are they worthwhile?'.

I am quite certain that they are, for many reasons. My mind goes back to the earlier days when social activity played a much greater part in our party life than it has done for several years past. Whatever the difficulties and clashes of personalities, we all felt better for a social 'get together' as distinct from a Socialist 'get together'. Now, with a larger member

ship and a much wider basis of organisation, the need for a real social 'get together' is even greater.

Two very successful occasions readily come to mind: the Attercliffe Constituency Party's Annual Dinner and Dance, and the Leeds City Party's Annual Whist Drive and Dance. Both these were highly successful. They not only raised funds, but also they provided an occasion for members from many different walks of life to meet and enjoy each other's company.

The Attercliffe effort was extremely striking, because they set their target high by organising a really 'posh' affair. Ten shillings per head was the charge and a full house was in attendance to enjoy a first-class meal, cabaret and dance. The organisation was excellent and the speeches of the Rt. Hon. Hugh Gaitskell, M.P., and the other principal guests fitted the occasion admirably. There was time for reminiscences, for a word on current topics, for a peep into the future, and for that 'strange' party member, who resents the interference of Transport House and all its hirelings, to cheerfully buy the Regional Organiser a drink.

Let there be more of these efforts as I am sure they will show dividends in the more serious party activity during the year.

J. ANSON.

Northern.

Agent for Tolpuddle

IN the glorious counties of the South West, isolation is a special problem. Some small county towns are so far apart that sometimes active local parties are almost detached, and have little to do with the Constituency Labour Parties.

Nonetheless, these rather self-contained local parties do a job of work which would be the envy of a party in an industrial centre. This was brought home to me vividly at the last General Election.

I remember being invited by a few enthusiasts immediately after the 1950 General Election to go to that beautiful seaside town of Lyme Regis, on the Dorset coast, to meet Labour supporters discovered during the Election, with a view to forming a local party.

There were over seventy present, and after a short talk, those who wanted to join the Labour Party were asked to remain. . . . no one left. The local party was duly formed, and I conveyed the

address of the Secretary to the Constituency Labour Party.

Just before the 1951 General Election, I asked the Constituency Secretary what had happened to the Lyme Regis Local Party. He said that he had heard nothing from them, and he was unaware as to whether they were still in being.

Imagine my surprise then, when during the early part of the 1951 Election Campaign, I received a letter from the Lyme Regis secretary, saying that they had kept going ever since they had been formed, had been very active, and would like to make a donation of £150 to the Constituency Labour Party General Election Fund, and would this be in order. The cheque was duly presented to the Chairman at one of the first public meetings of the campaign.

Lyme Regis happens to be in the West Dorset Constituency which includes the village of Tolpuddle. It is interesting to know that West Dorset has just appointed a full-time agent. By the time this is in print, he will have commenced his duties. He is facing a tough job. He has probably never heard of the Lyme Regis incident . . . when he does, my guess is that he will quote it as an example of what can be done.

E. V. REES.

South Western.

High Poll

THE by-election in the almost wholly industrial Farnworth constituency was caused by the death of George Tomlinson, who was not only a national figure and Chairman of the Regional Council, but also was one who was known personally to and respected by almost everybody in the constituency. Not only in national politics, but earlier as a Local Councillor and a County Councillor, in church life and in the fields of Social Service, he had become known to all.

Our task in securing a successor was, therefore, no small one and we were fortunate in securing Ernest Thornton, who started his working life as a weaver at 13 years of age and who at 47 was Secretary both of the Rochdale Weavers and of the Legislative Council of the United Textile Factory Workers' Association. Textiles, mining and engineering are the basic industries of Farnworth and Ernest Thornton's industrial history and training made him an excellent successor to George Tomlinson. Nevertheless, to follow George

Tomlinson was no mean task and having regard to the results of recent by-elections it was agreed that special efforts would be required.

The campaign proved to be one of the happiest and most successful of recent years. Agents from nearby constituencies assisted throughout the campaign and as a result of a Regional appeal workers from contiguous constituencies came to help with the canvass and literature distribution. These, together with the excellent rally of local workers — especially at Worsley — gave proper coverage of the constituency with all literature and a first-class canvass. Public meetings were addressed mainly by Lancashire Members of Parliament, but more important than these was the work of the candidate and his wife, with women workers, in street canvassing every morning and afternoon. It was estimated that the candidate and his wife called at over 5,000 houses.

On Polling Day we had a grand rally from the county and polling day arrangements were well conducted and resulted in a 71 per cent poll, which was, no doubt, higher than was generally expected.

At the General Election, Labour had 59.2 per cent of the votes cast and at the by-election, 55.9 per cent, a pleasant reversal of recent trends. A good campaign—a credit to the Agent, Alderman Sydney Stout, and his assistant, Jean Hardy, who is soon to be full-time agent at Droylsden, and to all concerned.

R. C. WALLIS.

North Western.

Social Socialists

WHEN I was a youngster I used to look forward to the Annual Tea Meeting at the Little Bethel. It was refreshing to see piles of thin white and brown bread and butter, set alternately on the long tables, and interspersed with jellies and blanc-manges, and plates of lovely square-cut fruit cake. Oh! what a sumptuous fill each year!

Then there was the preacher to listen to, and judged by the look on their faces and their ejaculations, it was a time of elation and rededication for the adults who shepherded us.

In some measure, I experienced a resurgence of this emotional and happy feeling at the Annual Dinner of the Norwich Labour Party. There was good food, colour, gaiety, dancing and fellowship.

The arrangements were admirably made by the Party Agent, Bill Butcher.

Herbert Morrison was Chief Guest. He recalled the great work of the pioneers and specially mentioned Herbert Witard who, despite his 80 years, looked well and alert among us. He compared their task with ours, and emphasised the ethical case for Socialism, epitomised by Bruce Glasier long ago in the following sentiments:

Socialism, in truth, consists, when finally resolved, not in getting at all, but in giving; not in being served, but in serving; not in selfishness, but in unselfishness; not in the desire to gain a place of bliss in this world for one's self and one's family, but in the desire to create an earthly paradise for all.

Herbert's was a fine New Year Message and it was received gladly by the 250 Comrades present, who were delighted to have their M.P., John Paton, and Mabel Tylecote, their prospective Parliamentary Candidate with them. Small wonder that Arthur South, the genial chairman, was pleased with it all!

Some other Constituency Parties arrange an annual Tea or Dinner, and they benefit in many ways. I advise *all* constituency parties in this region to do so this year.

Such a gathering is a wonderful tonic: it expresses fellowship; it helps to extend and sustain the faith which removes mountains, and that is as necessary in politics as in religion.

WILFRED YOUNG.

Eastern.

Recording the Membership

With reference to the article 'Recording the Membership' by Harold Williams (December *Organiser*) may I offer a further suggestion in connection with Membership Cards.

Could not these cards be produced in the same form as driving licences, although remaining at their present size. Each year, the collector(s) or other responsible official could complete a form in duplicate (the backs being partly adhesive). One copy could be stuck in the member's card on receipt of the first payment, and the duplicate copy be stuck on to a card which was filed with the party's records, as a membership file (i.e. the flat record type with cards lying seriatim, and end exposed).

Would not this method reduce stationery costs?

T. A. GRIFFITHS,

Tunbridge Wells.

Labour Party Publications

CURRENT ISSUES

PAMPHLETS, LEAFLETS AND BOOKS, ETC.

LEAFLETS

Invitation to a Party	30s. per 1,000 copies.
Do you remember (Membership) ... }	27s. 6d. per 1,000 copies.
Just scraps of paper (Membership) ... }	100 copies, 3s. 6d.; 500, 15s.; 1,000
Trade Unionists and Politics	£1 7s. 6d.
Fifty Things the Tories have done ...	17s. per 1,000 copies.
About the Labour Party	6 copies, 6d.; 12, 1s.; 24, 1s. 8d.; 50,
	3s.; 100, 5s. 6d.; 1,000, £2 5s.
An appeal to Labour Voters	8s. per 1,000 copies.

PAMPHLETS AND BOOKLETS, ETC.

Prices, including postage

POLICY PAMPHLETS:

Labour's Foreign Policy	1 copy, 4½d.; 12, 2s. 9d.; 50, 10s. 6d.; 100, £1.
Towards World Plenty	
Facing the Facts	

POLICY DISCUSSION PAMPHLETS:

No. 1—Problems of Foreign Policy ...	1 copy, 6d.; 12, 3s. 9d.; 24, 7s.; 50, 13s. 6d.; 100, £1 5s.
No. 2—Our Daily Bread	
No. 3—Problems of Public Ownership	
No. 4—The Welfare State	
No. 5—The Future of Private Industry	

EDUCATIONAL SERIES PAMPHLETS:

No. 1—Trade Unionism, its Origins, Growth and Role in Modern Society	1 copy, 6d., 12, 3s. 9d.; 24, 7s.; 50, 13s. 6d.; 100, £1 5s.
No. 2—The Co-operative Movement	
No. 3—The Real Nature of Conservatism	

GENERAL PAMPHLETS:

Monopoly	1 copy, 4½d.; 12, 2s. 6d.; 100, 17s. 6d.
A Policy for Secondary Education ...	1 copy, 4½d.; 12, 3s. 6d.; 24, 6s. 6d.; 50, 13s.
Five Million Unemployed	1 copy, 8d.; 12, 5s.; 100, £1 17s. 6d.
Guide to the Elements of Socialism	1 copy, 8d.; 12, 5s.; 100, £1 15s.

BOOKS:

Labour Party Diary, 1953	1 copy, 2s. 9d.; 6, 12s. 9d.; 24, £2 8s.; 50, £4 12s.
Local Government Handbook 1951/52 (England and Wales)	2s. 10d.
Scottish Local Government 1952 ...	2s. 2d.
Campaign Quotations	1 copy, 3s. 10d.; 6, 17s. 6d.
Party Organisation	1 copy, 1s. 8d.; 6, 8s.; 12, 15s.
Annual Report, 1952	1 copy, 2s. 6d.; 6, 12s. 6d.; 12, £1 2s. 6d.; 50, £4 7s. 6d.

THE LABOUR PUBLICATIONS DEPARTMENT,
Transport House, Smith Square, London, S.W.1.